



SOUTHEAST REGION

MISSOURI CAREER GRADES

SEPTEMBER 2022

Food Preparation & Serving Related Occupations

Projected to have the most
annual total job openings

over 2,100

Food Preparation & Serving Related Occupations

Most grade A and B
annual openings

almost 1,700

Management Occupations

Grade A and B Jobs
Concentration

94%

Career Grades are a tool to help make comparisons between occupations. Each occupation is assigned a letter grade from A+ to F based on outlook over the next decade. **Grades are based on a combination of projected total job openings, projected percent growth, and average wages.** Occupations with a grade of A or A+ have above average results in at least two of the three variables, while occupations with a grade of B or B+ have above average results in at least one of the three variables.

The Southeast region is projected to have over 14,800 annual job openings through 2030. The vast majority (99%) of these openings are in A, B, and C grade occupations. In general, higher graded occupations earn more and have higher growth rates. Grade A occupations earn an average wage that is 54 percent higher than the average wage for all occupations, and are projected to grow more than six times faster than the average growth rate.

Annual Job Openings and Wages by Career Grades

Grade A

1,108 Job Openings
\$62,329 Average Wage

Grade B

9,131 Job Openings
\$42,249 Average Wage

Grade C

4,366 Job Openings
\$36,446 Average Wage

Top Outlook Occupation Groups

Major Occupation Group	Total Openings	A & B Openings	A & B Concentration
Food Preparation & Serving Related	2,130	1,789	84%
Healthcare Support	1,750	1,617	92%
Transportation & Material Moving	1,753	1,584	90%
Sales & Related	1,758	952	54%
Office & Administrative Support	1,658	705	43%
Building & Grounds Cleaning & Maintenance	602	544	90%
Production	1,066	529	50%
Installation, Maintenance, & Repair	593	508	86%
Management	436	411	94%
Business & Financial Operations	474	389	82%
Construction & Extraction	488	285	58%
Education, Training, & Library	450	280	62%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	544	280	51%
Personal Care & Service	259	134	52%
Protective Service	211	77	36%

Southeast Top Grade Jobs

Now Typically requires short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2020-2030 Growth Rate	Average Wages
B+	Home Health & Personal Care Aides 🔥	1,138	8.4%	\$25,659
B	Fast Food & Counter Workers 🔥	687	9.4%	\$22,667
B	Retail Salespersons 🔥	547	0.5%	\$27,324
B	Stockers & Order Fillers 🔥	412	6.5%	\$26,297
B+	Waiters & Waitresses	370	14.0%	\$22,472
B	Office Clerks, General	357	-3.4%	\$30,782
B	Janitors & Cleaners, Except Maids & Housekeeping Cleaners	265	1.8%	\$26,118
B	Laborers & Freight, Stock, & Material Movers, Hand 🔥	248	4.2%	\$31,078
B	Customer Service Representatives 🔥	174	2.9%	\$31,549
B	Food Preparation Workers	165	4.8%	\$21,374

Next Typically requires non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate-to long-term training

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2020-2030 Growth Rate	Average Wages
B	Nursing Assistants 🔥	418	-1.1%	\$28,403
B+	Heavy & Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers 🔥	367	5.5%	\$51,987
A	Cooks, Restaurant	284	43.0%	\$23,124
B	Maintenance & Repair Workers, General 🔥	153	3.2%	\$37,838
B	Bookkeeping, Accounting, & Auditing Clerks	140	-6.1%	\$35,721
B	First-line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers 🔥	130	-6.8%	\$38,689
B+	First-line Supervisors of Production & Operating Workers	109	1.9%	\$54,656
B	Hairdressers, Hairstylists, & Cosmetologists	102	7.2%	\$26,629
A	Woodworking Machine Setters, Operators, & Tenders, Ex. Sawing	102	28.7%	\$30,095
B	Automotive Service Technicians & Mechanics	101	-0.3%	\$37,421

Later Typically requires a bachelor's degree or higher

Grade	Title	Annual Openings	2020-2030 Growth Rate	Average Wages
A	General & Operations Managers 🔥	239	5.9%	\$78,342
B+	Registered Nurses 🔥	175	-1.3%	\$60,719
A	Accountants & Auditors	130	7.5%	\$52,832
B	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special & Career/Tech. Edu.	110	0.6%	\$44,822
B+	Market Research Analysts & Marketing Specialists	67	21.2%	\$50,246
B	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education	64	0.1%	\$49,104
B	Middle School Teachers, Except Special & Career/Tech. Edu.	53	0.4%	\$45,473
B	Human Resources Specialists	47	3.8%	\$49,508
B	Project Mngmt. Specialists & Business Op. Specialists, All Other	47	1.1%	\$71,019
A+	Medical & Health Services Managers 🔥	34	20.3%	\$112,232

 Flame icon indicates occupations with high numbers of online job ad postings in 2021.

Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) and the Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics (OEWS) program. Occupational projections developed by the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERCI). Lightcast™ Job opening and growth rate data is based on sum of published employment.

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